

02-15-2021

Regarding: H.B. no. 5037

As past Chair and a current member of Music Haven's Board, I am writing to strongly support the continuation of the State's Music Haven budget line.

Always an inspiring organization, throughout the pandemic, from the initial shutdown in March 2020 to the current time, the staff at Music Haven worked tirelessly to continue and expand the mission. They responded to the early days of the crisis by making sure that students' families had access to technology that would allow them to continue studying remotely, connected them with resources to ensure food, health and housing needs were being addressed, and kept the music lessons going. The vast majority of the students remained committed to the program, their teachers finding new, different, effective and ever evolving ways of engaging them in lessons, and practice (sending video clips increased daily practice rates with rapid positive feedback) and maintained their connections with each other. The students' stories, and the families' support highlight what Music Haven has meant to them during this very challenging time. The community recognized Music Haven as exemplary of how an organization could operate successfully under such extraordinary constraints. Please continue to support Music Haven with the current level of funding and allow this great organization to continue to grow and empower the community that it serves so well.

Respectfully,

Wendy D. Marans
Music Haven Board Member

<http://www.musichavenct.org>